

A note from
Dr. Vance Valerio

I am pleased to have the opportunity to share some thoughts and ideas with the readers of Diversity Dialogue. My life and my professional career have bridged a series of changing times in our society, our country, our world and, as a microcosm of all that, the collegiate setting. My experience in all these sectors has helped change me and, in turn, afforded me the opportunity to give back—to serve—many students at a variety of institutions of higher education. In few places is the societal shift in the U.S. as evident as a public university campus in 2011. Diversity abounds at ASU—in the backgrounds of our students, the differences in our voices, the values we espouse and live, and the opportunities to encounter others.

Having lived through the post-World War II years, the '60s and '70s and the profound civil rights movement, and the telecommunications explosion, and having seen global crises up close and personal, I have been both witness and participant in this societal evolution. Thus, I trust that each of you who reads this will reflect, reconsider and appreciate the whole of what you have before you:

- The opportunity and the challenge of living and learning in a setting that embraces new ideas, exploration, questions, dialogue and differences, as well as
- The expectation that you will leave ASU to teach, to support, to lead and perhaps most important, to serve others in your work place, your community and your home.

For me, the privilege of having been responsible for diversity enhancement and multicultural programs and services at campuses across this country, as well as the opportunity of working with students from all walks of life, is something I hold dear.

I hope each of you will look at the whole of your ASU experience and take it with you to extend the reach of the university into the world.

Navajo Code Talker speaks



Samuel Tso, USMC

If you go:
Wednesday, Nov. 16
CJ Davidson Center
6-7 p.m.
Free

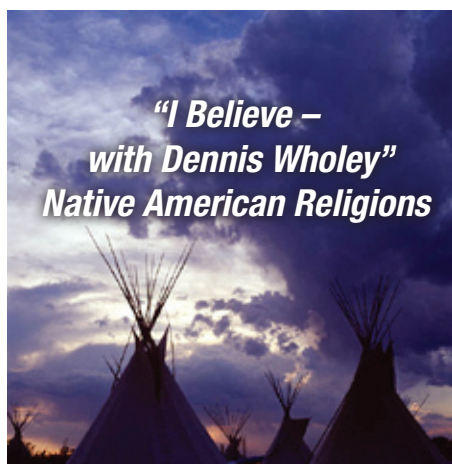
Known as Navajo Code Talkers, they were young Navajo men who transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of World War II. At a time when America's best cryptographers were falling short, these modest sheepherders and farmers were able to fashion the most

ingenious and successful code in military history. They drew upon their proud warrior tradition to brave the dense jungles of Guadalcanal and the exposed beachheads of Iwo Jima. Serving with distinction in

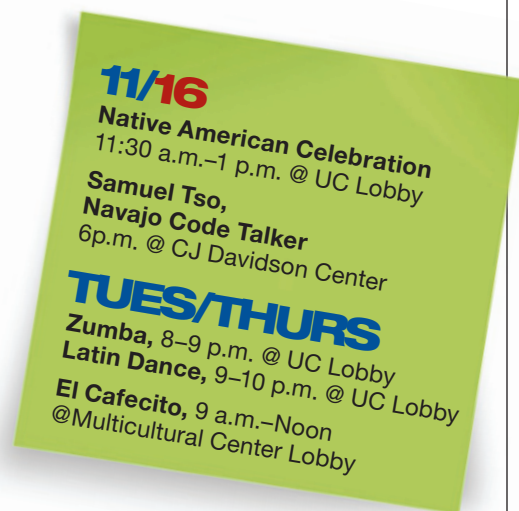
every major engagement of the Pacific Theater from 1942-45, their unbreakable code played a pivotal role in saving countless lives and hastening the war's end.

The Multicultural Center, in conjunction with the Center for Security Studies, has the honor of hosting one of the four remaining code talkers on Wednesday, Nov. 16. When Samuel Tso saw the tiny island of Iwo Jima for the first time, he thought U.S. forces would be able to take it in one day. Even as they landed, the beaches were dead quiet. Only after they had made their way up the beach did the heavily entrenched Japanese open fire. It was not long before the young Marine reconsidered his first assessment. It would take more than a month of brutal combat before the island was secured. Tso bravely served with the U.S. Marine Corps from Feb. 13, 1943, to March 29, 1946. Even now, some 65 years later, he recalls with clarity the experience of crouching in bomb craters for cover, unable to ascertain the direction of fire until comrades on the opposite side of the crater were killed.

Lending Library Highlight



Dennis Wholey visits churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other houses of worship to respectfully inquire into some of the many faiths that enrich the spiritual life of the United States.



Each program features an interview with a knowledgeable representative about beliefs and practices, history and related social/cultural issues, and most include a brief visit inside the sacred space.

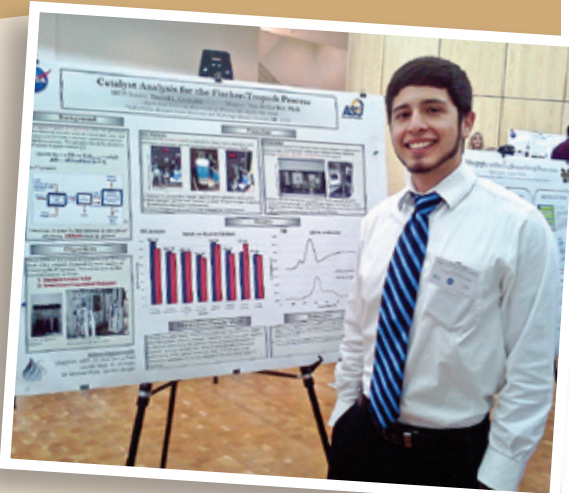
Student highlight: Daniel Gonzales

CLASS: JUNIOR | MAJOR: PHYSICS | HOMETOWN: SAN ANGELO

I feel accomplished because this past summer I was accepted to intern at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Glenn Research Center (NASA GRC) in Cleveland under the sponsorship of the National Science and Technology Institute (NSTI).

During this internship, I worked side-by-side with NASA engineers and scientists on a project called "Catalyst Analysis for the Fischer-Tropsch Process." A team and I produced and characterized catalysts in order to optimize the output of fuel by the Fischer-Tropsch reactors on site at GRC. This project has direct applications in the aircraft, both commercial and military, that we see today, and has the potential to lead the way in producing cleaner jet fuels from non-petroleum sources.

I was required to conduct my own research, process and analyze the



data, give a mid-summer oral presentation, give a poster presentation and write an in-depth final report on my findings.

This was truly an incredible experience that I feel immensely blessed to have had the opportunity to take part in. I will never forget the summer I worked at NASA.

DID YOU KNOW...

Native American Heritage Month Fun Fact

There are about 150 Native American languages spoken in Canada and the United States, and another 600-700 languages spoken in Central and South America.



Source: www.native-languages.org/kidfaq.htm#5



A student participates in the Disabilities Awareness Celebration using goggles to simulate loss of sight.

October review

Almost 300 people attended the Disabilities Awareness Celebration on Oct. 26. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in simulation exercises, which

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— Nan Mathews

included goggles that imitated macular degeneration, glaucoma and blindness. Also, students played "Rumor" while wearing ear plugs to recreate what hearing-disabled people experience on a daily basis. Finally, several students took a wheelchair challenge by maneuvering through the inside and outside of the University Center in order to become more sensitive to the needs of the walking disabled. More than 100 students, faculty and staff took part in the disabled simulations and walked away with a new perspective on disabilities.

Nan Mathews, ASU Mail Services assistant, lost 85 percent of her hearing in 1990. She helped work the hearing disabled table and said, "I love our students. They're just wonderful, and it's important to give them the experience of deaf culture. They need to know it is not a disability, just a different ability."